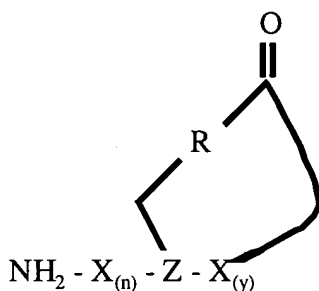


In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended). A cyclic peptide comprising the structure:
wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog,



a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, R is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and carbon, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10,

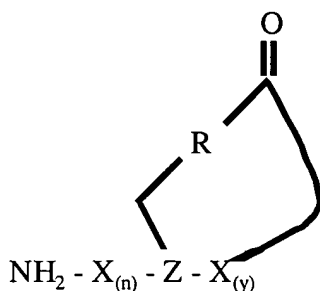
wherein the cyclic peptide ~~inhibits is capable of inhibiting~~ the accessory gene regulator (agr) response.

2. (currently amended). A cyclic peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of $\text{NH}_2 - \text{X}_{(n)} - \text{Z} - \text{X}_{(y)} - \text{COOH}$ and a cyclic bond between the Z residue and COOH other than a thioester bond, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10,

wherein the cyclic peptide ~~inhibits is capable of inhibiting~~ the accessory gene regulator (agr) response.

3-16. (cancelled).

17. (currently amended). A method for treating a *Staphylococcus aureus* (S. aureus) infection in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a cyclic peptide effective to treat the infection, said cyclic peptide comprising the structure:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, R is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and carbon, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10, wherein said cyclic peptide is administered cutaneously, subcutaneously, intravenously, parenterally, orally, topically, or by aerosol in an effective amount to achieve a clinically significant reduction in said *S. aureus* infection.

18. (currently amended). A method for treating a *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) infection in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a cyclic peptide effective to treat the infection, said cyclic peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of NH₂-X_(n)-Z-X_(y)-COOH and a cyclic bond between the Z residue and COOH other than a thioester bond, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10, wherein said cyclic peptide is administered cutaneously, subcutaneously, intravenously, parenterally, orally, topically, or by aerosol in an effective amount to achieve a clinically significant reduction in said *S. aureus* infection.

19-24. (cancelled).

25. (previously presented). The method of claim 17, wherein Z has a side chain comprising oxygen, nitrogen or carbon.

26. (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein Z has a side chain comprising oxygen, nitrogen or carbon.
27. (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein the cyclic bond is a lactam or lactone bond.
28. (currently amended). The method of claim 17, wherein the cyclic peptide is ~~capable of inhibiting~~ inhibits the *agr* response.
29. (currently amended). The method of claim 18, wherein the cyclic peptide is ~~capable of inhibiting~~ inhibits the *agr* response.
30. (previously presented). The method of claim 17, wherein y is 4.
31. (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein y is 4.
32. (currently amended). The method of claim 30, wherein the peptide is selected from the group of peptides having an amino acid sequence that comprises G-V-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~Seq-ID No.:1~~), G-A-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~Seq-ID No.:2~~), G-V-A-A-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~Seq-ID No.:3~~), A-V-A-N-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~Seq-ID No.:4~~), G-V-N-A-X-A-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 5 ~~Seq-ID No.:5~~), G-V-N-A-X-S-A-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 6 ~~Seq-ID No.:6~~), G-V-N-A-X-S-S-A-F (SEQ ID NO: 7 ~~Seq-ID No.:7~~) and X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 8 ~~Seq-ID No.:8~~).
33. (currently amended). The method of claim 31, wherein the peptide is selected from the group of peptides having an amino acid sequence that comprises G-V-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~Seq-ID No.:1~~), G-A-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~Seq-ID No.:2~~), G-V-A-A-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~Seq-ID No.:3~~), A-V-A-N-X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~Seq-ID No.:4~~), G-V-N-A-X-A-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 5 ~~Seq-ID No.:5~~), G-V-N-A-X-S-A-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 6 ~~Seq-ID No.:6~~), G-V-N-A-X-S-S-A-F (SEQ ID NO: 7 ~~Seq-ID No.:7~~) and X-S-S-L-F (SEQ ID NO: 8 ~~Seq-ID No.:8~~).

34. (previously presented). The method of claim 17, wherein a composition is administered and said composition comprises said peptide and a carrier.
35. (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein a composition is administered and said composition comprises said peptide and a carrier.
36. (previously presented). The method of claim 17, wherein a pharmaceutical composition is administered and said pharmaceutical composition comprises said peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
37. (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein a pharmaceutical composition is administered and said pharmaceutical composition comprises said peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
38. (previously presented). The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of a diluent, an aerosol, a topical carrier, an aqueous solution, a nonaqueous solution, and a solid carrier.
39. (previously presented). The pharmaceutical composition of claim 37, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of a diluent, an aerosol, a topical carrier, an aqueous solution, a nonaqueous solution, and a solid carrier.